



I'd like to thank the members of the committee for this opportunity to express support for SB 1033 An Act Providing Resources for Early Detection, Diagnosis and Treatment of Lung Cancer.

My name is Margaret LaCroix and I am here representing the American Lung Association. In addition, I am representing the MATCH Coalition.

Lung cancer has been in the news lately with the deaths of Peter Jennings and Dana Reeve. As you know, Peter Jennings was a smoker and his death carried the stigma of smoking. But as highlighted by the death of Dana Reeve, lung cancer deaths are occurring in those who never smoked a cigarette. We are learning more and more about the dangers of secondhand smoke, dirty air and radon, all of which can cause lung cancer.

Did you know that more women die each year from lung cancer than breast cancer? That is a statistic that always shocks people. The public health community has done such a great job with awareness, research and education in the area of breast cancer and reducing breast cancer statistics. We know such initiatives work. We would like to apply that model to lung cancer as well.

Lung cancer is the leading cancer killer in both men and women in the United States.

Lung cancer causes more deaths than the next three most common cancers combined (colon, breast and prostate). An estimated 162,460 deaths from lung cancer occurred in the United States in 2006.

You may be wondering, with all this recent attention to lung cancer, why are there not more lung cancer survivors here today?

The expected 5-year survival rate for all patients in whom lung cancer is diagnosed is 15.5 percent compared to 64.8 percent for colon, 89 percent for breast and 99.9 percent for prostate cancer.

About six out of 10 people with lung cancer die within one year of being diagnosed. The rest usually die within two years.

An estimated 351,344 Americans are living with lung cancer.

Between 1979 and 2003 lung cancer deaths increased by 60 percent.

These are compelling statistics. These are real people in our state. As with the very successful breast cancer model, we know that resources for early detection, diagnosis and treatment work and we ask you to act favorably on this legislation.